

Social protection Inter-agency Board meeting

- DESA attaches significant importance to social protection through support of the intergovernmental processes – the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Commission for Social Development, and in our analytical work and also through inter-agency collaboration.
- Social protection was an emerging issue in the Commission for Social Development two years ago, and we organized an expert panel discussion with ILO, UNRISD and EU Commission. It was one of the initial steps to advance the SPF initiative at the intergovernmental level.
- As of today we have 3 resolutions. Last February, the Commission had a priority theme of “Poverty eradication” and adopted a resolution, which urged Governments to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a base to address poverty and vulnerability.
- ECOSOC AMR is discussing the theme of employment and decent work to poverty eradication. The Ministerial Declaration from the meeting is expected to convey the key policies to enhance employment opportunities, including establishing nationally determined social protection floors.
- In terms of the General Assembly, at its last session, the GA adopted two resolutions (one the follow up to the Social Summit, the second on social integration), which encouraged Governments to develop or extend appropriate social protection systems, and commit to establishing a social protection floor as defined by each country.

- **In addition, we also try to highlight the importance of SPF in the parliamentary documents. Namely, in the latest reports of the Secretary-General to the GA, we will be emphasizing social protection, including the SPFloor Initiative and mention the adoption by ILO Conference of the recommendation on SPF.**
- **The SG reports will emphasize that social protection is an important policy instrument to reduce poverty, inequality and vulnerability, and we will be proposing recommendations urging Governments to establish nationally determined SPFloors.**
- **The General Assembly chose “full employment and decent work for all” as a theme of the second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), and the UN system-wide plan of action was prepared by DESA and ILO, in close collaboration with other UN agencies.**
- **The overall objective of the plan of action is to enhance coherence and synergy of the UN system-wide activities in the area of employment and decent work.**
- **Among the activities, particular attention is given to collaborating on the Social Protection Floor at the national level. And the joint collaboration of some agencies on SPF will be reflected in the SG report on the Second Poverty Decade to the GA.**
- **In terms of DESA’s analytical work, the latest Report on the World Social Situation, the flagship publication of DESA focused on the global social crisis and reviewed adverse social consequences of the financial and economic crisis. The report strongly emphasized important lessons from the global crisis and the need for social protection and SPFloor.**